

I am a local songwriter (& BMI member) and frequent listener to local country music stations.

I have non-exclusive publishing contracts on 4 of my songs, 1 of which has won a lyric award. 2 of my songs are available on Clearchannel.com and Songramp.com. I have a portfolio of 20+ songs.

I have contacted 2 stations that I regularly listen to, going through proper channels, in an attempt to obtain airplay - even in a trial capacity. Upon sending a cd with approval I received not so much as an acknowledgement with a decline. I have no idea if they even listened to it. I know of no programs or showcases for local talent - which many other local artists/songwriters would love to see happen. Play the music and let the listeners vote. I feel that the stations are playing only the big name stars and forgetting about those of us (who happen to be their listeners as well) that only want an opportunity to be heard - at least once.

I feel they need to come up with something new. In my area most listeners I talk to say they get sick of "hearing the new stuff played into the ground". Many have said they would love to hear some new stuff - a variety. Almost all we hear is "contemporary country". We don't hear any traditional, and hardly hear anything older than from 5 months ago.

I would LOVE to have a part defined locally produced or originated. It would be so beneficial to local talent in all genres of music.

I think local programming should not only include local news but include local artist/songwriter talent as well.

I don't think that the local community should be misled. I also feel that I personally prefer to listen to a station that uses local, live talent. Voice tracking is okay during the off-hours - maybe midnight to 4 or 5am.

I think that there should be some kind of regulation that a certain amount of time be allotted to local talent/new talent. National playlists ARE stifling the ability of lesser or unknown artists/songwriters from the opportunity to be heard. Unless you have a producer/publisher that is well known to get the stuff out there, or a lot of money to help you can't get heard on the radio anymore. Let the listeners decide if they want to hear this new music again by voting or calling in.

I feel that LPFM stations could help the music community tremendously - especially in smaller towns/areas. It could be a wonderful outlet for new talent.

I want to thank the FCC for giving this issue attention. I have been praying for an opportunity to voice my feelings on these issues. Thank you!!